

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method of joining a connection member to a foil, the method comprising:
positioning the connection member and the foil against each other; and
forcing the connection member and the foil together between a hardened surface and a staking pin which has a tip of less than or equal to approximately 0.030" (0.762 mm) in diameter.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein forcing the connection member and the foil together comprises striking the foil with the staking pin and forcing the foil into the connection member.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the staking pin has a frusto-conical shape approximately 0.015" (0.381 mm) at its tip.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a second staking pin, wherein the two staking pins are approximately 0.040" (1.016 mm) apart.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
positioning the staking pin to a terminal height of approximately 0.001" (0.0254 mm) above the hardened surface;
positioning the staking pin to strike at approximately 0.120" (3.048 mm) from an edge of the foil.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein forcing the connection member and the foil together comprises forcing the connection member and the foil together at a force between 100 and 1000 pounds.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the foil comprises an etched anode foil.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the foil comprises an anode foil having a porous structure and a formation voltage of greater than approximately 441 volts.
9. (Original) A method of joining a connection member to a foil, the method comprising:
 - placing the connection member against a hardened surface;
 - placing the foil between the connection member and a staking tool; and
 - forcing the foil into the connection member with the staking tool.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising positioning the staking tool to a terminal height of about 0.001" (0.0254 mm) above the hardened surface before forcing the foil into the connection member with the staking tool.
11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein forcing the foil into the connection member with the staking tool comprises using a force of between 100 and 1000 pounds.
12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the staking tool comprises two staking pins approximately 0.040" (1.016 mm) apart, each staking pin comprising a frusto-conical shape approximately 0.015" (0.381 mm) at its tip and approximately 0.028" (0.7112 mm) at its base.
- 13-35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously Presented) A method of coupling a plurality of anode connection members of a capacitor, the method comprising:

attaching an anode connection member to two or more of a plurality of anodes;
positioning each of the anode connection members so that each anode connection member is flush with each other anode connection member or connection members adjacent to each anode connection member; and

edge-connecting each anode connection member to the anode connection member or connection members adjacent to each anode connection member directly along an exposed end face of each of the connection members.

37. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein edge-connecting comprises laser welding along a seam between each of the anode connection members.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein each of the plurality of connection members having a cut-out adapted to matchably fit within a notch on an anode.

39. (Original) A method of joining two or more foils, the method comprising:

positioning the two or more foils in a stack; and
forcing the two or more foils together between a hardened surface and a staking pin which has a tip of less than approximately 0.060" (1.524 mm) in diameter.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the staking pin has a tip of approximately 0.025" (0.635 mm) in diameter.

41. (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising setting the staking pin to a displacement height of approximately 0.001" (0.0254 mm) above the hardened surface.

42. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein forcing the two or more foils together comprises forcing the two or more foils together at a force of approximately 100 to approximately 1000 pounds.

43. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein forcing the two or more foils together comprises forcing at least one foil comprising an etched anode foil together with one or more other anode foils.

44. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein forcing the two or more foils together comprises forcing three anode foils together, each anode foil comprising an etched foil.

45. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein positioning the foils comprises stacking three etched anode foils in a dimension perpendicular to a major surface of each of the anode foils.

46. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the two or more foils comprise two or more anode foils, each anode foil approximately 0.004" (0.1016 mm) thick.

47-51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently Amended) A method of assembling a capacitor, the method comprising:
assembling two or more anode stacks by a method comprising:

staking a connection member to only a first anode foil by a first stake weld using
a staking tool to force the first anode foil into the tab; and

staking the first anode foil to a second anode foil by a second stake weld;

stacking the two or more anode stacks into a capacitor stack so that each anode connection member is flush with each other anode connection member or connection members adjacent to each anode connection member; and

welding each anode stack connection member to each other adjacent anode stack connection member by edge-connecting each anode connection member to the anode connection member or connection members adjacent to each anode connection member directly along an exposed end face of each of the connection members.

53. (Original) The method of claim 52, wherein staking the first anode foil to the second anode foil comprises forcing the first anode foil together with the second anode foil with a staking pin having a tip diameter less than approximately 0.060" (1.524 mm).

54. (Original) The method of claim 52, wherein the first anode foil and the second anode foil each comprise an anode foil having a porous structure and a formation voltage of greater than approximately 441 volts.

55. (Original) The method of claim 52, wherein welding each anode stack connection member to each other adjacent anode stack connection member comprises edge-welding the connection members together.

56-84. (Canceled)